

TENNESSEANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Tennesseans. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Tennessee. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Tennessee.

INCOME: TENNESSEANS ARE EARNING LESS TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the median income in Tennessee was \$40,716.¹
- In 2005, the median income in Tennessee was \$39,376, a drop of 3.3 percent.²

HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN TENNESSEE HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS

- In 2000, Tennessee had 607,000 adults without insurance (10.9 percent).³
- In 2005, Tennessee had 836,000 adults without insurance (14.2 percent).⁴

EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN TENNESSEE

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Tennessee was \$7,661.⁵ In 2005, it was \$9,445, a 23 percent increase.⁶
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Tennessee was \$18,139.⁷ In 2005, it was \$22,035, a 21 percent increase.⁸
- Number of Tennesseans affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 51,587⁹
- Number of Tennesseans affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 55,882¹⁰

GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR TENNESSEE RESIDENTS

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Tennessee was \$1.346 a gallon.¹¹
- Today the average cost of gas in Tennessee is \$2.261 a gallon.¹²
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Tennessee was \$1,979.¹³
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Tennessee is \$3,324, \$1,345 (68.0 percent) more than it was in 2001.¹⁴

SOCIAL SECURITY: TENNESSEANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Tennessee – 1,069,600¹⁵
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Tennessee – \$837¹⁶

IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: TENNESSEANS ON THE FRONT LINES

- Number of Tennesseans killed in Iraq – 57¹⁷
- Number of Tennesseans wounded in Iraq – 415¹⁸
- Number of Tennesseans killed in Afghanistan – 5¹⁹
- Number of Tennesseans wounded in Afghanistan – 23²⁰
- Number of Veterans in Tennessee – 540,778²¹

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING TENNESSEE'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS

- Only 315 estates in Tennessee paid an Estate Tax in 2004.²²
- Only 81 estates in Tennessee will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.²³
- In contrast, 151,000 workers in Tennessee would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.²⁴

CRIME: VIOLENT CRIME IN TENNESSEE IS ON THE RISE

- Number of Violent Crimes in Tennessee per 100,000 residents in 2000 – 707.2²⁵
- Number of Violent Crimes in Tennessee per 100,000 residents in 2005 – 752.8²⁶
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – \$11,540,688²⁷
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – \$4,272,703²⁸

TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST TENNESSEANS

The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Tennesseans.

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Tennessee residents each received an average of \$2,533 in tax cuts, while middle class Tennessee residents received only \$392.²⁹
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Tennessee residents will receive an average of \$35,349 in tax cuts, while middle class Tennessee residents will only receive \$717.³⁰
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Tennessee residents will each receive an average of \$67,281 in tax cuts, while middle class Tennessee residents will only receive \$811.³¹

The richest Tennesseans receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.

- In 2001, the richest Tennesseans received 6.2 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 19.5 percent of the tax cut.³²
- But, in 2006, the richest Tennesseans will get 26.6 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 10.8 percent of the tax cut.³³
- And, in 2010, the richest Tennesseans will get 43.5 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 10.5 percent of the tax cut.³⁴

Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Tennesseans.

- In 2010, the richest Tennesseans will receive an average of \$10,578 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Tennesseans will be getting over 56.2 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.³⁵
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Tennesseans will receive an average of \$24 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 2.6 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.³⁶

SOURCES

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